Mobile service in Gujarat

4971. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dist·icts in Gujarat where mobile service is available at present;

(b) the number of districts in the State where this service has not yet been launched; and

(c) by when this service would be provided in the remaining districts of the State during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The following companies are licensed to provide and have commissioned Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) in Gujarat Telecom Circle Service Area.

1. M/s. Fascel Ltd.
2. M/s. IDEA Cellular Ltd.
3. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
4. M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd.

As per the information provided by these companies, CMTS is available in the district headquarters of 24 Districts out of total 25 Districts in Gujarat Telecom Circle Service Area.

(c) As per the terms and conditions of the licence for CMTS, in the Telecom Circle Service Areas, an operator is required to cover 10% of the District Headquarters within one year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also ;ermitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of 100% of the districts.

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has plans to cover the remaining Districts in Gurajat Telecom Circle Service Area by June, 2003.

MTNL and BSNL cellular telephones

4972. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are showing less interest on Government owned MTNL